purpose of the schemes of catering the poor measures is not defeated.	Haryana and Uttar Pradesh to ensure that paddy strictly confirming to uniform specifications are procured.
	(b) In the interest of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) consumer specifications for Rice during Kharif Marketing season 1999-2000 and for Wheat during the current Rabi marketing season 2000-2001 have been tightened.
	(c) No relaxation in specification of Rice/Paddy during the current Kharif Marketing season 1999-2000 has been given except in case of Orissa where the crop was affected due to Super Cyclone.
	(d) FCI has been asked to supply only good quality foodgrains to the States for distribution under TPDS.

The IGMRI is undertaking various research activities in close collaboration with FCI, CWC, SWCs etc. for development of code of practices for scientific storage of foodgrains at commercial level. As regard construction of godowns for storage of foodgrains norms/ standards for construction of conventional godowns on scientific lines have already been developed by Bureau of India Standards (BIS) (formerly ISI) in association with IGMRI, which are being adopted by FCI, CWC, SWCs etc. at the time of construction of the godowns.

Import duty on edible oil

3680. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had lately reduced the import duty on edible oil from 60 per cent to 15 per cent;

(b) if so, the amount of edible oils imprrted since reduction in import duty;

(c) the local availability of such oils from indigenous production; and

(d) how the Indian farmers and producers of oilseeds and oils have been adversely affectee thereby and the steps taken to help the Indian producers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) No, Sir. With effect from 30.12.1999, the Government has in fact raised the import duty on refined edible oil from 15% (basic) to 25% (basic).

(b) The amount of edible oils imported since revision in duty have been as under:—

Month	Quantity (in Mts.)
January, 2000	3,78,832
February, 2000 (Prov.)	2,89,649

(c) The net availability of edible oils from indigenous sources in the current year i.e. 1999-2000 is estimated to be 64.78 LMTs.

(d) There is a gap between demand and availability of edible oils from domestic sources. In order to ensure availability of edible oils at reasonable prices to thbe ceonsumers, Government has allowed import of edible oi on O.G.L Government has recently raised the import duty on refined edible oils including RBD Palmolein from 16.5% to 27.5%, SAD @ 4% has also been made applicable. In addition import of crude edible oils has been subjected to actual user condition. The present import policy facilities the actual users namely manufacturers of refined oils and vanaspati to access the raw material at lower import duty while it discourages import by the traders and restrict indiscriminate import by them. In short, the present import policy has attempted to balance the interest of the consumers, farmers and processors.

New PDS policy

3681. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the new policy of Government regarding supply of different items under Public Distribution System;

(b) the details thereof item-wise and quantity-wise, per card holder; and

(c) by when, the new policy would be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) to (c) In order to better targetise the food subsidy towards enhancing the food security to the people living below poverty line (BPL), the allocation of foodgrains to BPL families has been doubled from 10 Kg. to 20 Kg. per family per month at 50% of economic cost and to APL at economic cost *w.e.f.* 1.4.2000. The allocation for APL families has been maintained at the same level as fixed at t e time of introduction of TPDS in June, 97. Additional quantities of wheat